

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is response to applicant's argument file on 08/31/2009.

Claims 1-3 are cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 4-7 are allowed based on the Office action mailed on 03/22/2007.

Regarding claim 4 and (similar recited limitation on claim 5) Murray (US 6,011,699) teaches a portable terminal device of the foldable type comprising a pair of flat cabinets openably connected to each other by a hinge mechanism (Col.4, L10-36, Fig.1 and Fig.2 Illustrate portable terminal device of the foldable type 100 having pair of flat cabinet 102 and 110 and connect by a hinge), each of the cabinets comprising a front cabinet half segment to be opposed to the other cabinet when closed (Fig.2, Illustrate front cabinet half segment portion 106 and Fig.1 Illustrate as front cabinet half segment opposed to the other cabinet when closed), and

Toyoda (US 6,914,982 B2) teaches a rear cabinet half segment joined to the front cabinet half segment (Fig.3 Illustrate rear cabinet half segment as read on 16/26 joined to the front cabinet half segment as read on 12/22), said front cabinet half segment being a separate piece from said rear cabinet half segment (Fig.1, Illustrate front cabinet half segment 12/22 being a separate piece from said rear cabinet half segment), one of the pair of cabinets having the front cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and having the rear cabinet half segment thereof engaged with the front cabinet half segment thereof, the

Art Unit: 2617

other cabinet having the rear cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and having the front cabinet half segment thereof engaged with the rear cabinet half segment thereof (Col.5, Lines 4-41, Fig.1, Illustrate the pair of cabinets having the front cabinet half segment having end portion connected to the hinge cover 13/23 and rear cabinet half segment having end portion connected to the hinge cover 17/27 wherein both end hinge cover 13/23 and 17/27 connected to the hinge mechanism as read on 32),

such that when the pair of cabinets are closed, with extraneous matter there between, no clearance is created in the joint between the front cabinet half segment and rear cabinet half segment of either of the pair of cabinets (Fig.2, Illustrate pair of cabinets are closed and no clearance is created in the joint between the front and rear cabinet half segment).

However, the combination of Murray and Toyoda **fails to teach or fairly suggest** wherein

the front cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet is provided with a pair of annular pieces projecting from one end thereof and spaced apart from each other, and the rear cabinet half segment of the display-side cabinet is provided with a pair of annular pieces projecting from one end thereof and spaced apart from each other, the annular piece of the manipulation-side cabinet and the annular piece of the display-side cabinet being arranged side by side in contact with each other and having fitted therein a first hinge unit, the other annular piece of the manipulation-side cabinet

Art Unit: 2617

and the other annular piece of the display-side cabinet being arranged side by side in contact with each other and having fitted therein a second hinge unit, and tile front cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet has a circular-arc piece projecting from the end thereof and positioned between the pair of annular pieces, and the rear cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet is provided at one end thereof with a partial member joined to the circular-arc piece for forming a hollow cylinder.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KIET DOAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7863. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles N. Appiah can be reached on 571-272-7904. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2617

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kiet Doan/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/Charles N. Appiah/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617